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The book is illustrated more sparingly than most books of this sort; thus, for instance, one fossil only is given for every geological division. This is due partly to the desire to keep the size of the book within the limits of a handbook, partly to the pedagogical consideration of the author that one illustration can be remembered better than a multitude of them, and partly to his principle that specimens should be studied in the museum rather than in books. As far as book study goes in geology this volume certainly substantiates its claim that no other will be needed by the student before he begins to specialize. French students are fortunate to have such a book available, and American scholars, too, may find occasion for being thankful for whatever knowledge of French they possess if it enables them to use the book for European references. M. K. G.

**Lehrbuch der praktischen Geologie. Arbeits- und Untersuchungsmethoden auf dem Gebiete der Geologie, Mineralogie und Paläontologie. Von Dr. Konrad Keilhack.** 2nd Edition. xvi and 841 pp., 2 colored plates, 348 illustrations in the text and index. Ferdinand Enke, Stuttgart, 1908.

The first edition of this work was most heartily welcomed by German teachers of Geology. The present edition has been largely recast, is nearly double the size of the first issue, and the author has enriched his book by the collaboration of a number of well-known specialists. These new chapters supply many suggestions for field geological work, as, for example, in high mountain regions by Prof. Rothpletz, in the tropics and sub-tropics by Dr. Passarge, in the study of volcanoes by Prof. Sapper, and of glaciers and inland ice by Dr. von Drygalski. The maps and illustrations are very numerous and instructive. From its first appearance, this work took its place as one of the best and most practical textbooks for use in the higher schools.

**The Life of Philibert Commerson. An Old World Story of French Travel and Science in the Days of Linnæus. By the late Captain S. Pasfield Oliver.** Edited by G. F. Scott Elliot. xvii and 242 pp., Illustrations and Index. John Murray, London, 1909. 10s. 6d.

Commerson was one of the greatest natural history specialists of his time. While his leading subject was botany, he made important contributions to other branches of the science. He was "Doctor in Medicine, Botanist and Naturalist to the King of France," and in his long journey around the world with the great explorer De Bougainville he discovered about 3,000 new species and some 60 new genera of plants. Cuvier wrote of him that if he had published his own observations he would have been in the foremost rank of naturalists, but "unfortunately he died before he had put the final touch to his collections and those to whom his manuscripts and herbaria were entrusted neglected them in a culpable manner."

This story of his life and work was a labour of love on the part of Captain Oliver, who died, however, before he had completed his book. The work has been ably finished and edited by Mr. Scott Elliot. It is largely composed of Commerson's vivid writings, and is especially interesting in its account of his own monumental work on De Bougainville's voyage and for the sidelights it throws upon that historic event.

It was upon that voyage that De Bougainville hoped to solve the vexed question of the existence of a great land now known as Australia. For this purpose, he sailed due west from Tahiti and finally saw the heavy seas foaming on the